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June 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 157 – May 2020

Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

(RI/FS)

CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

 On May 7, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a teleconference to discuss remaining comments and clarifications on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS).

Correspondence

- On May 1, Region 2 informed CPG that the NJDEP had issued the Fish Collection Permit for the planned August 2020 Current Conditions Biota sampling survey.
- On May 4, CPG provided suggested revisions to Region 2 for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Remedial Action Objective (RAO) 1 footnote for Above River Mile (RM) 15 area and accepted Region 2's proposed Post-IR Source Identification framework presented on April 23, 2020.
- On May 6, Region 2 provided NJDEP responses on IR FS issued to be discussed during scheduled May 7 teleconference.

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- On May 6, CPG provided Region 2 with proposed changes to determining the number of Post-IR sampling locations.
- On May 6, Region 2 provided responses to CPG proposed revisions to the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS RAO 1 footnote for Above RM 15 area.
- On May 6, CPG provided proposed revisions to the Dredge to Clean principles in the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On May 7, Region 2 provided the Fish Collection permit to CPG.
- On May 7, CPG notified Region 2 that the scheduled equipment maintenance and data downloading from the moorings from the Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) program were completed on May 6.
- On May 11, Region 2 notified CPG that the NJDEP approved the Dredge to Clean proposal presented in the May 7 teleconference acceptable for inclusion in the next Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On May 12, Region 2 provided comments to CPG on refining language for determining the unit costs to be used in the cost model for the next Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On May 12, CPG notified Region 2 additional information regarding the proposed language for determining unit costs was being added in the next Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On May 15, CPG delivered the April Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On May 15, CPG uploaded the revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS and appendices to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On May 19, Region 2 provided suggested changes and comments on the April 2 and 16, 2020 IR FS teleconference minutes to CPG.
- On May 21, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the ongoing PWCM data downloading activity.
- On May 18, CPG provided comments on minutes from the April 23 and 30, 2020 IR FS teleconferences to Region 2.
- On May 20, CPG provided Region 2 the updated version of the processed FS Model metrics file originally transmitted on April 7, 2020.
- On May 21, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding resolution of CPG comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS April 2 meeting minutes.
- On May 21, CPG requested information from Region 2 regarding the calculation of sample size and power analysis for the 2019 Current Conditions fish and crab tissue sampling.
- On May 21, CPG provided Responses to Comments (RTCs) on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.

Work

- CPG continued work on supplemental modeling projections for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG continued reviewing and response to Region 2 comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS and provided a revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.

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- CPG conducted an in-water monitoring equipment servicing event May 20-21 for the PWCM component of Current Conditions Sampling.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued analysis and validation of 2019 Current Conditions Sampling Biota composite tissue samples.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

 On May 15, CPG uploaded Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) of validated data from the September 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program event to the EPA SharePoint site and preliminary, unvalidated data received in April 2020.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to comments on the revised the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS delivered to Region 2 on May 15.
- CPG will conduct Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment servicing and Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring (SV CWCM) sampling events if river conditions and COVID 19 restrictions permit.
- CPG will complete analysis of the Current Conditions Biota composite tissue samples.
- CPG will complete validation of Current Conditions Biota tissue data.
- CPG consultants will prepare updates to their Health and Safety Plans for COVID 19 applicable to Current Conditions Sampling work.

(d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

 Contractor Corporate and New Jersey work/travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 could impact 2020 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

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Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter

CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel

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